

NEWS JOURNAL

Happy New Year!

January 2009



Don J. Antczak - District 3

With the highly publicized national news of our recession and multi-billion dollar bailouts for the greedy, the corrupt, and the incompetent (bankers, insurance companies, auto makers, etc.), a review of Cottonwood Heights' financial picture and history is in order.

A snapshot of the city's books in January 2005 showed: **balance sheet zero; bank account zero.**

Six months later on June 30, 2005, a similar snapshot showed: **revenue to date - \$3,842,910; expenditures to date - \$3,070,186; and a surplus of \$772,724.**

This change in the city's financial picture was after hiring an energetic, professional staff; renting office space to house "the city"; and entering into contracts for law enforcement, fire protection, animal control and road maintenance. In addition, there had been a plethora of other

Our City is Financially Sound

start-up costs that are requisites of any new venture.

Last summer on June 30, 2008, just three years after the birth of our city, the snapshot showed: **revenue to date - \$16,585,364; expenditures to date - \$13,592,475; and a surplus in various committed and uncommitted funds of \$13,285,563.**

Cottonwood Heights has no debt!

The noted surplus is primarily slated for capital improvement projects, along with the required "rainy day fund." Your city has made myriad improvements, added numerous services and events, and made plans and put away money for extensive capital improvements while continuing to operate within budget.

This picture is in stark contrast to the condition of many cities in the state who were featured in a recent newspaper article showing some cities virtually broke and many others now looking for their own bailouts. The article in the November 23, 2008 issue

of the Deseret News showed Cottonwood Heights as the number one city in the state in the "debt-free" category. There are others, but none as large as Cottonwood Heights; and most Utah cities are toward the other end of the spectrum with significant debt per resident.

Looking forward, the city is now midway in the current fiscal (budget) year which will end on June 30, 2009; and even with the start-up expense for the Cottonwood Heights Police Department, we are well within the projected budget. With anticipated decreases in revenues, we expect to add additional funds to our capital projects budget to fund important improvements in the city this year and next year.

Why is it important that you understand the financial picture of our city? I believe it is essential that taxpayers know what is happening with their hard-earned tax dollars. If we can see that these funds are being used prudently and responsibly for the

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CITY INFORMATION: City Council Members

MAYOR

Kelvyn H. Cullimore, Jr.
kcullimore@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

DIST# 1 - Gordon M. Thomas
gthomas@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

DIST# 2 - J. Scott Bracken
sbracken@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

DIST# 3 - Don J. Antczak
dantczak@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

DIST# 4 - Bruce T. Jones
bjones@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

CITY MANAGER -

Liane Stillman
lstillman@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

CITY OFFICES:

1265 E. Fort Union Blvd. #250,
Cottonwood Heights, UT 84047
phone (801) 944-7000
fax (801) 944-7005

CALL DIRECT:

City Manager	944-7010
Deputy City Manager	944-7011
City Planning	944-7065
Recorder	944-7021
Treasurer	944-7075
Finance Director	944-7077
Code Enforcement	944-7095
Customer Service	944-7000
Public Information	944-7015
Police Administration	944-7100
City Events	944-7001

To hear the agenda for the next city council meeting call: 944-7003

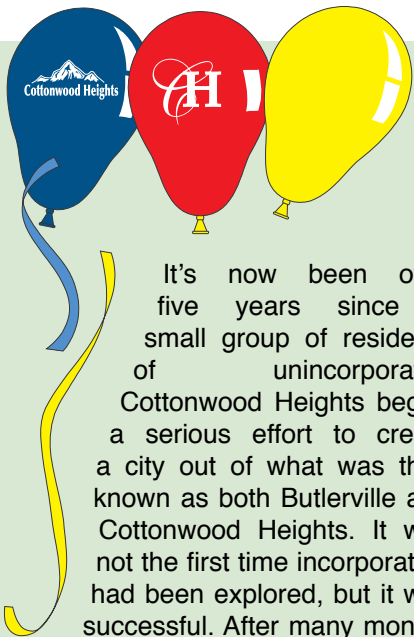
For the planning commission agenda call 944-7004

For details about the agendas, check our web site:
www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov

NUMBERS TO KNOW:

Emergency:	911
Dispatch:	840-4000
Fire Authority:	743-7100
Animal Control:	944-7095
Justice Court:	273-9731

Writer/Editor - Robert Warnick
bwarnick@cottonwoodheights.utah.gov
Designer - Jeimi Woffinden



It's now been over five years since a small group of residents of unincorporated Cottonwood Heights began a serious effort to create a city out of what was then known as both Butlerville and Cottonwood Heights. It was not the first time incorporation had been explored, but it was successful. After many months of feasibility studies; hundreds of hours of meetings; compliance with numerous county and state laws; countless discussions about form of government options; finally, in November, 2004, a general election was held and the Cottonwood Heights Incorporation Committee was authorized to incorporate, under the Council/Manager form of government, with an elected mayor and four city councilmen

Cottonwood Heights 4TH BIRTHDAY!!!

to govern. The five men selected to fill those positions recruited many volunteers; and between then and January 14, 2005, Cottonwood Heights became a city. The fourth anniversary of that beginning will be remembered on Wednesday, January 14, 2009. No festivities are planned until the city turns five, but the residents of Cottonwood Heights now enjoy numerous events each year, Butlerville Days being the best attended and serving as Cottonwood Heights' "Town Days."

Many of the incorporation committee members are still active in the city; others have gone on to other projects or have settled into a more private life style. But, the fruit of their many hours of volunteer service is still the newest incorporated city in the state. It has become a full-fledged, functioning

political entity with council, staff, and volunteers that have accomplished much and caused some significant ripples in Utah government circles over the past four years.

The space for this article is not adequate to list all of the incorporators names and recognize the individual contributions; nor is it large enough to list all of the accomplishments of the past four years. But, many things about this special corner of Salt Lake County have changed for the better. There are other articles in this issue of the NEWS JOURNAL that discuss some of the city's accomplishments, including Councilman Don Antczak's article about the fact that all the city has accomplished has been done without acquiring any debt. There is also an article discussing some of the things the city is getting right. Thanks again to those with the vision to anticipate the benefits of becoming a city; and,

**HAPPY 4th BIRTHDAY
COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS!!!**



Our City is Financially Sound

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betterment of our community and for improvements in quality of life for us and our neighbors, we can concentrate on and meet our own challenges and leave the detail of running a city to the elected officials and professional staff. We live in a great country where competence and honesty are prized and shameful, unconscionable misuse and abuse of public funds is abhorred.

Our city has achieved this enviable financial position because of dedicated, frugal, responsible attention to the city coffers by the city council and staff and by an outstanding group of citizen volunteers.

In the newspaper articles previously cited, our own City Treasurer, Gary Harmer, was quoted saying: "Utah cities that have abstained from

accruing debt cite good cash flow, strong infrastructure and a city council concerned with residents' pocketbooks. Our council has been very conservative and has not been willing to take on projects that would require debt."

The city's financial statement is posted on our web site monthly. I encourage all to periodically view this document to just see how we are doing and be better informed on this essential lifeblood of our great city. Indeed, we are fortunate to live in such a great area. My hope is that we continue to reach for excellence. Maybe someone on the national scene will notice what we are doing and we might possibly get some trickle-up action.

"THANKSGIVING 5K RESULTS"

Once again this year, everyone that participated was a winner in the Cottonwood Heights Thanksgiving Day 5k. Mayor Kelvyn Cullimore announced weeks before the event that he would finish better than last year. He did. Mayor Cullimore finished 672 out of 1,132 participants. He was defeated by 285 female runners and 386 male runners, all of whom had trained for months in preparation for the race of their lives. The mayor was also defeated by two council members, but no known city staff members were able to generate enough energy to pass the mayor, except for the few who ran under aliases.

The overall male winner was Teren Jameson who completed the course in one second shy of 16 minutes.

The overall winner who was a resident of Cottonwood Heights, was Nicholas Gaitan who was just 2 minutes and 3 seconds behind the overall winner. The female overall winner, Christina Gingras, is also a resident of Cottonwood Heights. Her time was 19:38.8, only about sixteen minutes faster than the mayor.

This annual Thanksgiving Day activity was sponsored by the Recreation Center and the City of Cottonwood Heights, along with Granite Construction, Sports Authority, and Unified Fire Authority (who also had 35 entries in the race). Traffic was directed by CHPD off-duty officers. Begin training now, and you too can participate in this internationally acclaimed event on Thanksgiving Day in 2009.



COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS WANTS YOU!!!!

Cottonwood Heights is seeking "Techie" volunteers to participate in its grant-funded FEMA Citizen Corps (FCC). The city is forming this volunteer emergency information technology response team under the auspices of the FCC; and it is your chance to prepare to assist in a time of need.

The city's National Emergency Technology Guard (NETGuard) will consist of information technology professionals from various industries. NETGuard's goal is to reestablish the IT infrastructure, systems, and applications for government agencies and emergency services providers during a major disaster. Consider NETGuard as "geeks on wheels" for emergency situations.

Cottonwood Heights' NETGuard will consist of five teams:

Phone, Servers, Network, Workstation, and Application. Members will be cross trained to a degree but each will bring their own specialty skills. The need is for IT professionals in the listed disciplines. There is no specific requirement that participants be from a certain industry; all are welcome. NETGuard members can expect to spend a few hours each month in training and practical exercises.

Since NETGuard will be accessing and assisting secure government systems, all NETGuard members will be required to undergo an FBI background check as part of the selection process. This, of course, means no felony convictions or records of instances involving questionable judgment. The city's contact person is Sgt. Chris Gebhardt, City IT Manager. Contact Sgt. Gebhardt by phone (944-7030), email (chris@chpolice.org), or send a resume giving him the background information he needs to begin the selection process. He plans to contact those having requisite experience and set up an orientation meeting for the purpose of explaining to interested parties the plans and requirements for the NETGuard project.

The city is excited to be part of the FCC NETGuard project. Cottonwood Heights was selected as one of only four political entities nationwide who received funding to establish such a facility. Others receiving similar grants are Austin (Texas), Chesapeake (Virginia), and Hamilton County (Indiana).

Christmas Trees Will Be Picked Up At Curb

You traditionalists out there, the ones that are still using live Christmas Trees, will be happy to know that the Salt Lake County waste removal trucks will pick up your tree from the curb in front of your house on regular Garbage Collection Days from Dec. 26 – January 31. After January, you are on your own.





City “...gets right on it.”

Many positive things have happened in our “City between the canyons” since incorporation four years ago (See birthday story elsewhere in this issue). Primary among these positive occurrences is, as reported in Councilman Antczak’s article, the city has no debt. Other significant accomplishments include better and less costly law enforcement and other public safety services; annual social activities, such as Butlerville Days, Easter egg hunts, Bark in the Park, etc., that draw us together as a community for “fun and games;” new, readable street signs; many new curb ramps, sidewalk sections, city entrance monuments, and upgraded landscaping on city property; and, rapid response to citizen concerns and complaints.

The last item in that list, rapid response to citizens concerns and complaints, was in evidence again this past month. A group of citizens living in the area of 2300 East to 2500 East and north of Fort Union Blvd, approached the council in mid-November about the street crossing situation on 2300 East near the post office. Their concern was that their children were being asked to cross 2300 East at two locations, neither of which was really convenient to the children’s “preferred route to school.” The city’s preferred route required the children to walk along the east side of 2300 East for a long distance without the benefit of a sidewalk or a curb and gutter to separate them from the heavy 2300 East traffic.

Following the discussion with the council, city staff was directed to

investigate the situation from the standpoint of safety, convenience, cost, and impact on the businesses along 2300 East. A study of the situation was conducted cooperatively by city administration, CHPD, and public works. A hearing was scheduled for city council meeting on Tuesday, December 2, at which parents, Bella Vista officials, and local businesses were invited to meet with the council and discuss the city’s recommended solution. At that meeting, following some discussion of the findings by the police, public works, administration, etc., it was recommended that a sidewalk be installed along the east side of 2300 East from the car wash to the pre-school. This would enable children to emerge from the subdivision on the east side of 2300 East and walk on sidewalk all the way to Fort Union Blvd. At Fort Union Blvd. there is a crosswalk and a crossing guard to expedite the safe crossing of 2300 East. It was agreed by all parties that this was the ideal solution and that it would alleviate the need for a crossing guard north of the post office while making it convenient and safe for children to cross 2300 East and make it safely to school. A solution was reached.

the city took leadership in helping resolve an untenable situation for residents of the Meadows Mobile Home Park who were informed they must move their homes within a short period of time. The city intervened in the process and helped to organize that mobile home community for an orderly and timely move. In addition to providing counsel and organizational assistance, the city assisted in raising over \$1 million to subsidize the residents of that community with their moving expense.

Another example of “...getting right on it,” is CHPD. Once the studying was completed and the decision was made, the creation of CHPD was a fast-track operation. A few people who understood law enforcement and its needs were hired to perform the many tasks that needed to be accomplished in order to create the entire department over a six month period. It was done within the allotted time and under the projected budget. Cottonwood Heights now has one of the outstanding police departments in the state and the citizens are reaping the benefits of having drug dealers and users, thieves, traffic violators, and others who flaunt the rules of society, off the streets and incarcerated when appropriate.

There are numerous other examples in public works, public safety, planning, administration, ordinance enforcement, and finance where efficiency and urgency have been exemplified through the actions of the city council and staff. Cottonwood Heights is a city that “...gets right on it” when confronted with troubling situations requiring collective action for resolution.

Thanks for Helping with Snow Removal

In spite of an abundance of snow falling during the latter part of December, the principle streets in the city have been well plowed. Thanks to you, the residents of Cottonwood Heights, for your part in making it possible for the plows to get along the edges of the roads and thus open the entire road to traffic. The removal of your cars from the streets in front of your houses has expedited the process and we all benefit from your actions.



Of course, we anticipate additional snow storms during the next two or three months. An on-going effort to remove cars following snow storms will continue to enable the city’s contractors to perform in such a manner that everyone driving in the city will enjoy safe conditions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!!



However, the amazing conclusion of this story is that the concrete sidewalk was poured almost immediately. A combination of factors, including available funds and a slow-down in the economy, created an ideal situation for the city to retain the services of a concrete installation firm and “...get right on it,” within less than a week of the decision date.

This is merely one, recent example, of the city responding rapidly to the needs of the community and of citizens within the community. Cottonwood Heights gets things done expeditiously, at the lowest possible cost, and in the least possible elapsed time. Other examples include the way



Concrete Work

Emergency Preparedness Tip for January

Once the disaster hits or is pending, it's too late to start assembling 72 hour kits. This is a project that should be started in early January and completed by the end of the month. Do it now, while there is still time and resources and before the stress of a disaster is upon you.

Don't make a resolution to accomplish this task, but SET A GOAL and make a commitment to assemble a 72 hour kit for each member of your family by January 31, 2009.

Other important goals for 2009 are to sign up for a CERT class or for additional emergency preparedness classes. Make a decision that by summer, June 1, 2009, you will have completed a CERT course or at least one advanced emergency preparedness course that will benefit the entire family.

Determine and commit to be better prepared for an emergency. It's important to "Plan Ahead" in knowing where the 72 hour kit is and that it contains the right supplies for survival.



CHPD UPDATE

– Another Good Month –

Storm, who is still a pup, is now training with Remo, his older and experienced CHPD counterpart, under the direction of Officers Ken Eatchel and Barry Larsen, CHPD's dog handlers. They train each week with other K-9 units in the county and are available to assist in crime suppression and investigation in Cottonwood Heights and in other jurisdictions when called upon.



Sub-for-Santa

CHPD's first annual SUB FOR SANTA project, chaired by Administrative Assistant Gina Talbot, was a resounding success and plans are already under way for next year. For Christmas 2008, four families, with a total of 12 children, were assisted. The CB Richard Ellis Brokerage business took responsibility for two families and provided an entire Christmas for each. The other two families and two high school students were assisted

with funds donated by the city employees association and MOMS Club of Cottonwood Heights, along with many volunteers who shopped, wrapped, and delivered the gifts. Over \$5,000 was raised. The money not used for the four families was passed on to "The Road Home" in the form of new clothing and gifts.



Chief Robbie Russo and Gina Talbot, his Administrative Assistant, prepare Sub-for-Santa gifts for delivery.



JANUARY CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

All City Council business meetings are held in the council chambers, 1265 East Fort Union Blvd., Ste. 300. The work meetings are held in the conference room at the same address but in Ste. 250. The January meeting schedule is as follows:

- **Tuesday, Jan. 6**
6 p.m. Work Meeting
- **Tuesday, Jan. 13**
6 p.m. Work Meeting (*reconvenes following business meeting*)
7 p.m. Business Meeting
- **Tuesday, Jan. 20**
City Council Goal Setting Retreat
- **Tuesday, Jan. 30**
6 p.m. Work Meeting (*reconvenes following business meeting*)
7 p.m. Business Meeting

CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE

The three arbitrators chosen to adjudicate the distribution of assets and liabilities between Canyons School District and the remaining Jordan School District have been listening to presentations from representatives of the two districts during much of December. Those hearings have been open to the public. They have now entered the closed phase of the process where they are deliberating and making final decisions about how physical property and finances should be divided. It is hoped that the decisions will be issued before the legislature convenes on Monday, January 26, 2009.

Once those decisions are rendered, each district will know what physical assets it has and what financial obligations it will have to meet and when. With that information, the newly elected Canyons District Board of Education will be able to do definitive planning for the beginning of school in August, 2009. Canyons District assumes formal responsibility on July 1, 2009 and will then begin providing education services to the residents of Cottonwood Heights, Sandy, Midvale, Alta, Draper and unincorporated areas in the Southeast quadrant of the county.



Storm and Officer Ken Eatchel get acquainted with Dr. Kara and Glen Clapp, in the CHPD

K-9 Unit

CHPD asked that the NEWS JOURNAL publicly thank the Dr. Kara Clapp Foundation for their generosity in providing the funds with which to purchase Storm, the most recent addition to the CHPD K-9 team. Dr. Kara and Glen Clapp (see photo) selected CHPD and Storm as recipients of their largesse to strengthen the ability of CHPD to investigate and identify those who commit crimes in Cottonwood Heights.